

# AMERICAN CULTURE AND SOCIETY

**Based on mutual respect and shared values, the US Mission works with Indonesia to strengthen democracy, sustain the environment, promote prosperity, enhance understanding and ensure security for our people, our nations, and our region.**

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## BECOMING AMERICAN: BEYOND THE MELTING POT

The United States is often referred to as the "Great Melting Pot," a metaphor that connotes the blending of many cultures, languages and religions to form a single national identity. But this metaphor fails to capture the slow, complex and frequently turbulent process by which immigrants of diverse backgrounds and beliefs join U.S. society, even as they transform it. Debate — even rancor — over immigration is neither new nor uncommon in U.S. history. Immigration is both an important part of our national identity and a source of social and political tension. Today, as during earlier periods of mass immigration to the United States, integrating newcomers into the American mainstream is a dynamic process that requires adaptation and change not only on the part of immigrants, but by receiving communities, public institutions and private entities. Since their earliest days, cities like Los Angeles, New York and Chicago have received — indeed, have been built by — large influxes of immigrants. In recent years, thousands of smaller U.S. towns and cities have begun to experience the cultural transformation that comes with



**Amerika adalah negara multikultural yang merupakan kumpulan para pendatang dengan berbagai identitas dari Negara asalnya seperti budaya, bahasa dan kepercayaan.**

welcoming sizable proportions of immigrants into their populations. From the South to the Midwest and the West Coast, growing numbers of immigrants are settling in areas populated mostly by the descendants of 19th- and early 20th-century European immigrants, creating challenges and opportunities for newcomers and established residents alike.

For more details, please explore <http://goo.gl/N3YUU>

## Why Do Many Americans Speak Only English?

America.gov— 11 January 2011

By Dr. David L. Sigsbee

U.S. Geography and the Need to Learn a Foreign Language

The United States is spread out over a huge land mass, and for most of its citizens there is no need to speak a language in addition to English in order to communicate with people who live nearby. The United States shares a 5,525-mile border with Canada, where the majority of citizens speak English.

The situation is somewhat different in a few large cities and in parts of the American Southwest, where a person may hear both English and other languages, espe-

**"...Orang Amerika yang bepergian keluar negeri dengan mudah bertemu dengan orang-orang yang bisa berbahasa Inggris di tempat-tempat yang mereka kunjungi...." — David L. Sigsbee**

cially Spanish, spoken side by side. However, in most of the United States, a person is not likely to hear a language other than English spoken as part of his or her everyday life. Furthermore, while the United States does not have an official language, for practical purposes English has been the language that virtually all residents speak and the one that immigrants are expected to master. From time to time movements arise to change the U.S. Constitution and to make English the country's official language since many Americans believe that national unity requires a national language. U.S. identity,

unlike that of other countries, is not rooted in ethnicity or race. Many Americans, therefore, see English as a national unifying bond or identity. Other Americans, however, oppose this change, believing that we should honor language differences and that U.S. linguistic diversity is itself a unifying national identity.

### English Is Spoken in Many Countries and Professions

Another reason many Americans do not feel a need to learn other languages is

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## Why Do Many Americans Speak Only English? — Continued from page 1



David L. Sigsbee

that English has become a world language and a language used in international trade and many professions. For example, Americans traveling abroad discover that they can eas-

ily find English speakers in many of the places that they visit. In part the spread of English has occurred because of an unusual political situation, that is, two successive world powers, Great Britain and the United States, introduced their native language — English — along with the expansion of their influence in many parts of the world.

English has also spread because it has become the common language of many professions and areas of activity. For example, English is the language of commercial airline pilots and of medical doctors and is also used widely in the sciences and engineering. In some countries, where the use of regional languages can exacerbate ethnic tensions, English has become a politically neutral language in which people can communicate.

In recent decades, English has been used in computer science and computer operating systems because those who developed computer technology have been, for the most part, English speakers. English speakers were instrumental in the development first of BITNET and then of e-mail and the World Wide Web. One outcome of this is that business people who want to compete globally use English on the Web or provide an English translation. All of the above factors, as well as others not considered here, lead many Americans to think that there is no need for them to speak and write in another language.

### Foreign Language Learning in the United States

It is not surprising then that many people outside the United States think that all Americans do not learn foreign languages. In fact, most American students are introduced to a foreign language, some as early as elementary school. Despite this, the instruction is usually not continuous, the curriculum may not be well designed and the standards for instruction vary from place to place. The

primary reason for this is that the U.S. Constitution leaves the education of citizens to the individual states. The U.S. federal government does encourage certain educational emphases and programs, but it neither mandates instruction in a given subject nor sets a national goal such as the “native language-plus-two” goal of the European Union.

Furthermore, when individual communities across the country do establish requirements for their elementary and high schools, they follow their own individualized standards. As a result, there is a wide variation in foreign language instruction across the country. The typical experience of American students is a one- or two-year introduction to a language at the elementary school level followed several years later by one or two years of high school language study, although some high schools offer more advanced study for those who want it. At the college and university level, foreign language study is required for some degrees (and extensive instruction in foreign languages is available to students who wish to achieve fluency and proficiency). The overall outcome, however, is that instruction in foreign languages is a limited and disjointed experience that does not bring most students to a level of fluency in another language.

### U.S. Immigrants and English

Immigrants seeking U.S. citizenship must demonstrate a level of fluency in English. Most commonly they do this as part of their naturalization eligibility interview with an officer of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. This test follows a clear set of guidelines and involves speaking in response to questions and reading and writing English. However, for most, learning English is already a desirable goal since English language proficiency makes it easier to achieve economic success and to participate in community and civic life. While it is possible to live in cultural enclaves in the United States where a language other than English predominates, effective use of English remains necessary for long-term well-being and success.

Many immigrants feel some degree of tension about which languages to teach and speak with their children. They naturally want their children to know and understand their own native language, but they also realize that for their children to succeed in the United States, especially to earn a living, good English skills are required. Furthermore, the research of sociologist Min Zhou shows that most children

of immigrants want to be as much like their American peers as possible, so they learn English well in order not to stand out as different. As a result, immigrant children tend to move away from their parents’ native language and acquire a strong identification with English. For the most part, by the third generation, the descendants of immigrants show little interest in knowing or communicating in their grandparents’ native language.

### Language in the United States

There are many factors that influence foreign language acquisition in the United States. While many Americans learn a foreign language either at home or in school, due to the United States’ vast land mass, the worldwide spread of English and the somewhat limited reach of public school language instruction, the majority of Americans speak only English.

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Source: <http://goo.gl/sh9NO>



### RESOURCES ON AMERICAN CULTURE, SOCIETY AND ENGLISH LEARNING MATERIALS.

- **E-Journal USA**  
<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa.html>
- **E-Books**  
<http://www.america.gov/publications/books.html>
- **Student Corner**  
<http://www.america.gov/publications/student-corner.html>
- **English Teaching Forum**  
<http://exchanges.state.gov/englishteaching/forum-journal.html>
- **VOANEWS.COM – Learning English**  
<http://www1.voanews.com/learningenglish/home>
- **IRC Information Products**
  - **Article Alert**  
<http://jakarta.usembassy.gov/article-alert.html>
  - **Thematic Information Package**  
<http://jakarta.usembassy.gov/infoproduct/thematic-information-package.html>

## MUSLIM DI AMERIKA: SEJUMLAH STATISTIK

Populasi Muslim di Amerika Serikat saat ini merupakan percampuran dari berbagai etnis, bahasa, ideology dan kelompok religious. Warga Muslim Amerika Serikat pribumi telah terintegrasi penuh dengan masyarakat di Negara ini, sementara para pendatang baru mulai beradaptasi dengan kehidupan di Amerika Serikat. Muslim di Amerika berkisar dari sangat orthodox hingga yang moderat dan bahkan secular, menurut keyakinan mereka masing-masing.

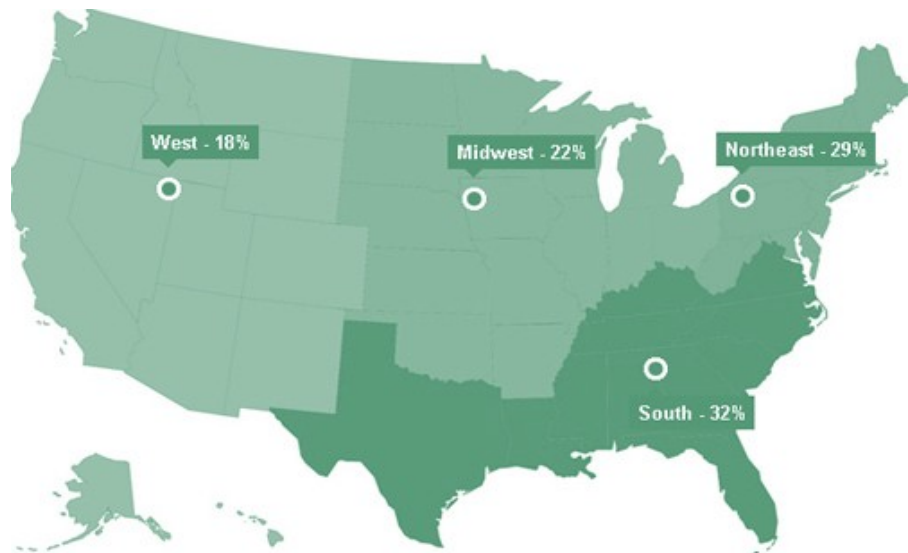
Jumlah populasi Muslim Amerika cukup sulit untuk diukur karena Sensus Penduduk A.S. tidak mencatat agama para warganya. Walaupun perkiraan tentang jumlah mereka berkisar dari dua hingga tujuh juta penduduk, tampak jelas adanya peningkatan jumlah Muslim di Amerika akibat tingginya angka imigrasi, kelahiran dan pergantian agama.

Menurut sebuah survey oleh Pew Research Center pada tahun 2007, sekitar 65 persen dari populasi Muslim Amerika adalah imigran generasi pertama dan 61 persen dari yang lahir di luar A.S. datang pada tahun 1990an atau dalam dekade ini.

Sebuah studi yang baru-baru ini dilakukan oleh Pusat Hak asasi Manusia dan Keadilan Global di Fakultas Hukum, Universitas New York menemukan bahwa banyak dari penduduk Muslim termasuk dalam golongan sekitar 40.000 orang yang harus menunggu lebih dari tiga tahun sebelum permintaan kewarganegaraan mereka diterima. Sebuah proses yang biasanya hanya memakan waktu tidak lebih dari 180 hari.

Perkiraan jumlah Muslim keturunan Afrika berkisar seperlima hingga sepertiga dari jumlah seluruh umat Islam di Amerika Serikat. Kelompok etnis mayoritas lainnya adalah keturunan Arab dan Asia Selatan (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh dan Afghanistan).

Walaupun kebanyakan orang Amerika lebih mengidentifikasikan Islam dengan warga keturunan Arab pada kenyataannya dua pertiga dari keturunan Arab Amerika Serikat justru beragama Kristen. Sebagian besar imigran Arab sejak Perang Dunia II beragama Islam. Warga Muslim adalah golongan yang jumlahnya paling cepat meningkat diantara warga keturunan Arab di Amerika Serikat. Namun komunitas muslim yang paling cepat meningkat jumlahnya adalah dari Asia Selatan yang saat ini mencakup seperempat dari jumlah seluruh Muslim di Amerika.



Di A.S. wilayah manakah warga Muslim tinggal: Selatan 32%; Timur Laut 29%; Barat Daya 22%; Barat 18%.

Berikut ini sejumlah statistik yang berhubungan dengan Muslim di Amerika:

### Distribusi Usia dan Jenis Kelamin dari Warga Muslim di A.S.

- Umur 18 – 29: 29%
- Umur 30 – 49: 48%
- Umur 50 – 64: 18%
- Umur 65: + / 5%
- Pria: 54%
- Wanita: 46%

### Tingkat Pendidikan – Muslim / Umum

- Lulusan S2 / 10% / 9%
- Sarjana S1 / 14% / 16%
- Diploma D1-D3 / 23% / 29%
- SMA / 32% / 30%
- Belum Lulus SMA / 21% / 16%

### Pendapatan Tahunan Per Keluarga / Muslim / Umum

- \$100,000 / 16% / 17%
- \$75,000 - \$95,000 / 10% / 11%
- \$50,000 - \$74,999 / 15% / 16%
- \$30,000 - \$49,999 / 24% / 23%
- Kurang dari \$30,000 / 35% / 33%

### Distribusi masjid di A.S. menurut kelompok etnis jamaahnya

- Asia Selatan: 28%
- Afrika Amerika: 27%

- Campuran aisa Selatan dan Arab 16%
- Arab: 15%
- Kombinasi lainnya 14%

### Pentingkah Agama dalam kehidupan anda?

- Sangat penting: 72%
- Cukup penting: 18%
- Tidak terlalu penting: 5%
- Sama sekali tidak penting: 4%
- Tidak tahu 1%

### Distribusi Masjid di Amerika Serikat

Komunitas Muslim Global Elektronik, Islamiccity.com telah mengumpulkan berbagai informasi tentang Muslim di Amerika Serikat sejak 1995. Arsip online situs ini telah mendata lebih dari 2.300 masjid, sekolah dan organisasi Islam di 50 Negara bagian. Sedangkan data untuk daerah khusus District of Columbia bersumber dari Islamic Center of Washington, DC. Total jumlah masjid adalah 1.018.

Sumber: <http://goo.gl/NNPLj>

*Informasi lengkap dan rujukan mengenai “Kisah Muslim di Amerika” tersedia dan dapat diunduh di IRC Information Package: <http://photos.state.gov/libraries/indonesia/171385/pdf/0810-RamadhanOutreach2010.pdf>*

# INFORMATION ON STUDY IN THE U.S.

## WHY STUDY IN THE U.S.?

**Quality:** U.S. colleges are known worldwide for the quality of their facilities, resources, and faculty. Accreditation systems ensure that institutions continue to maintain these standards.

**Choice:** The U.S. education system is unrivalled in the choice it offers in types of institutions, academic and social environments, entry requirements, degree programs, and subjects in which to specialize. There are more than 4,300 colleges and universities in the USA, any one of which can offer you excellent facilities, programs, faculty, and a range of social and academic environments.

**Diversity:** You can find a mix of people from all different backgrounds and all corners of the globe on U.S. campuses; more than 600,000 international students come to study in the United States each year.

**Value:** As an investment in your future, a U.S. degree offers excellent value for the money. A wide range of tuition fees and living costs, plus some financial help from universities, make study in the United States affordable for thousands of students.

**Flexibility:** Students in the United States may choose from many courses within their university and have the option to move from one institution to another. Completing the first two years of a degree at one institution, usually a community college, and then moving to another, is very common.

**More info:** [http://www.educationusa.or.id/study\\_in\\_the\\_us](http://www.educationusa.or.id/study_in_the_us)

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN THE U.S.

According to 2009 Open Doors report, there were 671,616 international students from over 200 countries studied in the U.S. in academic year 2008/09. From this figure, **Indonesia sent its 7,509 students.**

Indonesia is in the seventeenth place of origin for International students in the United States.

### U.S. Students Studying Abroad

A record number of U.S. students are choosing to study abroad, reflecting a strong commitment to the value of an international academic experience to prepare them to live and work in a more global society.

Open Doors 2009 reports that the number of Americans studying abroad increased by 8.5% to 262,416 in 2007/08 academic year.

For more information on the statistics/tables of numbers of students from other countries, top host university; top host state; top host city; and top fields of study please visit <http://opendoors.iienetwork.org/>

## PROGRAM VISA PELAJAR

Berikut informasi mengenai persiapan visa pelajar.

### 1. Apakah pengertian dari sebuah visa?

Pemegang visa diperbolehkan untuk memohon masuk ke A.S. dengan tujuan melakukan suatu kegiatan, sebagai contoh: pariwisata, belajar, melakukan riset, sesuai dengan jenis visa yang dimiliki.

## 2. Program Visa Pelajar (Visa Jenis F, M)

Amerika menyambut kedatangan pelajar-pelajar Indonesia yang berniat untuk melanjutkan pendidikannya ke jenjang yang lebih tinggi di AS. Visa jenis F dan M memperbolehkan pemohon visa untuk belajar di akademis (visa jenis F) dan sekolah kejuruan (visa jenis M) di AS. Pemohon visa yang bertujuan untuk menetap dalam kurun waktu lama harus mengajukan permohonan visa imigran. Kebanyakan pemohon visa di Indonesia yang telah memenuhi syarat, layak memperoleh satu visa kombinasi jenis F atau M, dengan masa berlaku 5 tahun yang dapat digunakan untuk beberapa kali perjalanan, dan menetap sesuai dengan kurun waktu pendidikannya, mulai dari waktu pendaftaran. Sebelum memulai proses permohonan, harap lihat: <http://educationusa.state.gov/>, <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/index.htm>, [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types\\_1268.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1268.html) dan [http://indonesian.jakarta.usembassy.gov/id/visas/mengajukan\\_visas.html](http://indonesian.jakarta.usembassy.gov/id/visas/mengajukan_visas.html)



## Online Resources on U.S. Education and Scholarship:

- Education USA  
<http://www.educationusa.or.id/>
- AMINEF  
<http://www.aminef.or.id/>
- Access Education Beyond  
<http://www.accesseducation.info/>

## Contact Info:

Information Resource Center (IRC)  
Public Affairs Section  
U.S. Embassy Jakarta

Address:  
Jl. Medan Merdeka Selatan 4-5, Jakarta 10110, Indonesia  
Tel.: (021) 350-8467  
Fax: (021) 350-8466  
Email: [ircjakarta@state.gov](mailto:ircjakarta@state.gov)  
Website: <http://jakarta.usembassy.gov/irc.html>

Walk-in Visitors  
(by appointment only):  
Monday to Friday; 07:30 to 16:00  
Closed on U.S. and Indonesian holidays.

## This information package is compiled by the IRC on March 2011

The U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center (IRC) in Jakarta is a specialized reference and research facility. Our goal is to provide you with accurate, up-to-date and authoritative information about U.S. society and policy materials, cover such topic as U.S. foreign policy, government, economics and trade, history, social and cultural issues.

The IRC collection includes an up-to-date reference collection, a periodicals section, and access to extensive online databases.

For details on reference and periodical collections, please check our online catalog at <http://69.63.217.22/U10086Staff/OPAC/index.asp>.

For all IRC information products, including this info package are available online at: <http://jakarta.usembassy.gov/infoproduct.html>

Our professionally-trained reference specialists use print and periodical collections as well as online databases and the Internet to retrieve the information that you need quickly, conveniently, and free of charge.

Information queries may be submitted to us by phone, fax, mail, and e-mail. You are also welcome to visit us by appointment for personal research assistance.

Articles and web-sites described in this info package present a diversity of views in order to keep our IRC users abreast of current issues in the United States. These items represent the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official U.S. Government policy.